



Technology Center 2100

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providing a port identifier, said port identifier operable to identify a port on said requesting device;

including said port identifier as part of said address;

transmitting said address from said requesting device onto said network;

receiving said address at an intermediate device; and

addressing a data provider device while including said port identifier as part of an address string.

4. ~~(As Filed) The method as described in claim 3 and further comprising:~~

~~transmitting a message from said data provider to the port of said requesting device identified by said port identifier.~~

5. ~~(Amended Once Herein) A method of providing an address, comprising:~~

~~providing a protocol identifier;~~  
~~providing an IP identifier;~~  
~~providing a requesting device identifier; and~~  
~~providing a requesting device port identifier.~~

6. ~~(Amended Once Herein) The method as described in claim 5 and further comprising:~~

~~coupling said protocol identifier with said IP identifier, said requesting device identifier and said requesting device port identifier.~~

7. ~~(As Filed) The method as described in claim 5 and further comprising:~~  
~~providing a file identifier.~~

8. ~~(Amended Once Herein) The method as described in claim 7 and further comprising:~~

~~coupling said protocol identifier with said IP identifier, said requesting device identifier, said requesting device port identifier, and said file identifier.~~

9. ~~(Amended Once Herein) The method as described in claim 8 and further comprising:~~

organizing said address structure so that said port identifier is adjacent said requesting device identifier.

22. (New) A data structure for a device on a network, said data structure comprising:

a protocol identifier field;  
an internet protocol identifier field for use in addressing an intermediary device;  
a requesting device identifier field; and  
a requesting device port identifier field.

23. (New) The data structure as described in claim 22 wherein said internet protocol identifier field is located between said protocol identifier field and said requesting device identifier field.

24. (New) The data structure as described in claim 22 wherein said requesting device identifier field is located between said protocol identifier field and said internet protocol identifier field.

25. (New) The data structure as described in claim 22 wherein said requesting device port identifier field is located adjacent said requesting device identifier field.

26. (New) The data structure as described in claim 22 and further comprising a file identifier field for identifying a file stored on a data provider device.

27. (New) A computer data signal comprising:  
a protocol identifier segment;  
an internet protocol identifier segment for use in addressing an intermediary device;  
a requesting device identifier segment; and  
a requesting device port identifier segment.

28. (New) The computer data signal as described in claim 27 and further comprising:

a file identifier segment for identifying a file stored on a data provider device.

29. (New) The computer data signal as described in claim 27 wherein said requesting device port identifier segment is operable for designating a port on a requesting device from which a request for data originated.

30. (New) An apparatus for use in a network, said apparatus comprising:  
a computer operable to provide an address for addressing a device on said network;

code for use by said computer operable to provide a protocol identifier field;

code for use by said computer operable to provide an internet protocol identifier field for use in addressing an intermediary device;

code for use by said computer operable to provide a requesting device identifier field; and

code for use by said computer operable to provide a requesting device port identifier field.

31. (New) The apparatus as described in claim 30 and further comprising:  
code for use by said computer operable to provide a file identifier field.

32. (New) The apparatus as described in claim 31 and further comprising:  
code for use by said computer operable to configure said protocol identifier field, said internet protocol identifier field, said requesting device identifier field, said requesting device port identifier field, and said file identifier field as a single address.

33. (New) A method of requesting data on a network, said method comprising:

providing a requesting device;  
sending a request for data to an intermediary device by utilizing a first protocol, said first protocol associated with a first port;  
receiving said request for data at said intermediary device;  
interpreting said request for data at said intermediary device;  
sending a second request for data from said intermediary device to a content provider by utilizing a second protocol, said second protocol associated with a second port;  
receiving said second request for data from said intermediary device at said content provider;  
obtaining said data;  
sending a message from said content provider to said first port of said requesting device while bypassing said intermediary device.

34. (New) The method as described in claim 33 wherein said first protocol is HTTP.

35. (New) The method as described in claim 33 wherein said message comprises said data requested by said requesting device.

36. (New) The method as described in claim 33 wherein said first port is different from said second port.

37. (New) The method as described in claim 33 wherein said sending said message from said content provider to said first port of said requesting device comprises sending said message according to a protocol that differs from said second protocol used to send the request for data from said intermediary device to said content provider.

38. (New) The method as described in claim 32 wherein said content provider obtains said data from a second content provider.